

ASP

To ASPERATE. *v. a.* [*aspero*, Lat.] To roughen; to make rough or uneven.
Those corpuscles of colour, insinuating themselves into all the pores of the body to be dyed, may *asperate* its superficies, according to the bigness and texture of the corpuscles. *Boyle.*
ASPERATION. *n. f.* [from *asperate*.] A making rough. *Diät.*
ASPERIFOLIOUS. *adj.* [from *asper*, rough, and *folium*, a leaf, Lat.] One of the divisions of plants, so called from the roughness of their leaves.
ASPERITY. *n. f.* [*asperitas*, Lat.]
1. Unevenness; roughness of surface.
Sometimes the pores and *asperities* of dry bodies are so incommensurate to the particles of the liquor, that they glide over the surface. *Boyle.*
2. Roughness of sound; harshness of pronunciation.
3. Roughness, or ruggedness of temper; moroseness; frowniness; crabbedness.
The charity of the one, like kindly exhalations, will descend in showers of blessings; but the rigour and *asperity* of the other, in a severe doom upon ourselves. *Govern. Tongue.*
Avoid all unseemliness and *asperity* of carriage; do nothing that may argue a peevish or froward spirit. *Rogers.*
ASPERNATION. *n. f.* [*aspernatio*, Lat.] Neglect; disregard. *D.*
ASPEROUS. *adj.* [*asper*, Lat.] Rough; uneven.
Black and white are the most *asperous* and unequal of colours; so like, that it is hard to distinguish them: black is the most rough. *Boyle.*
To ASPERSE. *v. a.* [*aspergo*, Lat.] To bespatter with censure or calumny.
In the business of Ireland, besides the opportunity to *asperse* the king, they were safe enough. *Clarendon, b. viii.*
Curb that impetuous tongue, nor rashly vain,
And singly mad, *asperse* the sov'reign reign. *Pope's Iliad.*
Unjustly poets we *asperse*,
Truth shines the brighter clad in verse. *Swift.*
ASPERSION. *n. f.* [*asperio*, Lat.]
1. A sprinkling.
If thou dost break her virgin knot, before
All sanctimonious ceremonies,
No sweet *aspersions* shall the heav'ns let fall,
To make this contract grow. *Shakep. Tempest.*
It exhibits a mixture of new conceits and old; whereas the institution gives the new unmixed, otherwise than with some little *asperion* of the old, for taste's sake. *Bacon's Holy War.*
2. Calumny; censure.
The same *aspersions* of the king, and the same grounds of a rebellion. *Dryden's Epistle to the Whigs.*
ASPHALTICK. *adj.* [from *asphaltos*.] Gummy; bituminous.
And with *asphaltick* slime, broad as the gate,
Deep to the roots of hell, the gather'd beach
They fasten'd. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. ix.*
ASPHALTOS. *n. f.* [*ἀσφαλτος*, bitumen.] A solid, brittle, black, bituminous, inflammable substance, resembling pitch, and chiefly found swimming on the surface of the *Lacus Asphaltites*, or Dead sea, where anciently stood the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. It is cast up from time to time, in the nature of liquid pitch, from the earth at the bottom of this sea; and, being thrown upon the water, swims like other fat bodies, and condenses gradually by the heat of the sun, and the salt that is in it. It burns with great vehemence. The Arabs use it for pitching their ships; and much of it was employed in the embalming of the ancients.
ASPHALTUM. *n. f.* [Lat.] A bituminous stone found near the ancient Babylon, and lately in the province of Neuchâtel; which, mixed with other matters, makes an excellent cement, incorruptible by air, and impenetrable by water; supposed to be the mortar so much celebrated among the ancients, with which the walls of Babylon were laid. *Chambers.*
ASPHODEL. *n. f.* [*ἰλίο-αφάδελος*, Lat.] Day-lily.
The characters are; It hath a root like king'spear; the flower consists of one leaf, which is deeply cut into six segments, and expands in form of a lily; the flower is succeeded by an oval fruit, which contains several roundish seeds. The species are, 1. The yellow *asphodel*. 2. The red *asphodel*. These two sorts are very common in most of the English gardens; the first is often called by the gardeners the yellow tuberose, from its having a very agreeable scent; but the other is called the day-lily, or the tuberose orange-lily, in most places. They are both hardy plants, and multiply exceedingly, if suffered to remain two or three years undisturbed; especially the red sort, which sends forth offsets. The best time to transplant their roots is in September or October. They will grow in any soil or situation; the yellow produces its flowers in May and June; the red a month later. *Millar.*
Asphodels were by the ancients planted near burying-places, in order to supply the manes of the dead with nourishment. By those happy souls who dwell
In yellow meads of *asphodel*. *Pope's St. Cecilia.*
ASPICK. *n. f.* [See ASP.] The name of a serpent.
Why did I 'scape th' 'invenom'd' *aspick's* rage,
And all the fiery monsters of the desert,
To see this day? *Addison's Cato.*

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To ASPIRATE. *v. a.* [*aspiro*, Lat.] To pronounce with aspiration, or full breath; as we aspirate *herse*, *house*, and *hog*.
To A'SPIRATE. *v. n.* [*aspiro*, Lat.] To be pronounced with full breath.
Where a vowel ends a word, the next begins either with a consonant, or what is its equivalent; for our *w* and *h* aspirate. *Dryd. Dedication to Enchir.*
A'SPIRATE. *adj.* [*aspiratus*, Lat.] Pronounced with full breath.
For their being puerous, you may call them, if you please, peripirate; but yet they are not *aspirate*, i. e. with such an aspiration as *h*. *Holder's Elements of Speech.*
ASPIRATION. *n. f.* [*aspiratio*, Lat.]
1. A breathing after; an ardent wish; used generally of a wish for spiritual blessings.
A soul inspired with the warmest aspirations after celestial beatitude, keeps its powers attentive. *Watts's Impr. of the Mind.*
2. The act of aspiring, or desiring something high and great.
'Tis he; I ken the manner of his gate;
He rises on his toe; that spirit of his
In aspiration lifts him from the earth. *Shak. Troil. and Cress.*
3. The pronunciation of a vowel with full breath.
H is only a guttural aspiration, i. e. a more forcible impulse of the breath from the lungs. *Holder's Elements of Speech.*
To ASPIRE. *v. n.* [*aspiro*, Lat.]
1. To desire with eagerness; to pant after something higher; sometimes with the particle *to*.
Most excellent lady, no expectation in others, nor hope in himself, could *aspire* to a higher mark, than to be thought worthy to be praised by you.
Hence springs that universal strong desire,
Which all men have of immortality;
Not some few spirits unto this thought *aspire*,
But all men's minds in this united be. *Sir J. Davies.*
Horace did ne'er *aspire* to epic bays:
Nor lofty Maro stoop to lyric lays. *Roscommon.*
Till then a helpless, hopeless, homely swain;
I fought not freedom, nor *aspir'd* to gain. *Dryden's Virgil.*
Aspiring to be gods, if angels fell,
Aspiring to be angels, men rebel. *Pope's Essay on Man.*
2. Sometimes with *after*.
Those are raised above sense, and *aspire after* immortality, who believe the perpetual duration of their souls. *Tilleyson.*
There is none of us but who would be thought, throughout the whole course of his life, to *aspire after* immortality. *Atterbury's Sermons, Prof.*
3. To rise higher.
There is betwixt that smile we would *aspire to*,
That sweet aspect of princes and our ruin,
More pangs and fears than war or women have. *Sh. H. VIII.*
My own breath fillt me the fire,
Which flames as high as fancy can *aspire*. *Waller.*
ASPORTATION. *n. f.* [*asportatio*, Lat.] A carrying away. *D.*
ASQUINT. *adv.* [from *a* and *quint*.] Obliquely; not in the straight line of vision.
A single guide may direct the way better than five hundred, who have contrary views, or look *asquint*, or flut their eyes. *Swift's Project for the Advancement of Religion.*
Ass. *n. f.* [*asinus*, Lat.]
1. An animal of burden, remarkable for sluggishness, patience, hardiness, coarseness of food, and long life.
You have among you many a purchas'd slave,
Which, like your *asses*, and your dogs and mules,
You use in abject and in slavish part,
Because you bought them. *Shakep. Merchant of Venice.*
2. A stupid, heavy, dull fellow; a dolt.
I do begin to perceive that I am made an *ass*.
That such a crafty mother
Should yield the world to this *ass*! — a woman that
Bears all down with her brain; and her son
Cannot take two from twenty for his heart,
And leave eighteen. *Shakep. Cymbeline.*
To ASSAIL. *v. a.* [*assail*, Fr.]
1. To attack in a hostile manner; to assault; to fall upon; to invade.
So when he saw his flat ring arts to fail,
With greedy force he 'gan the fort t' *assail*. *Fairy Queen.*
2. To attack with argument; censure; or motives applied to the passions.
My gracious lord, here in the parliament
Let us *assail* the family of York. *Shakep. Henry VI.*
She will not stay the siege of loving terms,
Nor bide th' encounter of assailing eyes. *Sh. Romeo and Jul.*
How have I fear'd your fate! but fear'd it most,
When love *assail'd* you on the Libyan coast. *Dryden's Æn.*
All books he reads, and all he reads *assails*. *Pope.*
From Dryden's Fables down to D—y's Tales.
In vain Thales'is with reproach *assails*; *Pope.*
For who can move when fair Belinda fails?
ASSAILABLE. *adj.* [from *assail*.] That which may be attacked. *Dear.*

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Banquo, and his Fleance, lives. —
— But in them nature's copy's not eternal. —
— There's comfort yet, they are *assailable*. *Shak. Macbeth.*
ASSAILANT. *n. f.* [*assailant*, Fr.] He that attacks; in opposition to defendant.
The same was so well encountered by the defendants, that the obliquity of the *assailants* did but increase the loss. *Sir J. Hayward.*
I'll put myself in poor and mean attire,
And with a kind of umber smirch my face,
The like do you; so shall we pass along,
And never stir *assailants*. *Shakep. As you like it.*
ASSAILANT. *adj.* Attacking; invading.
And as evening dragon came,
Assailant on the perched roosts
Of tame villatick fowl. *Milton's Samson Agonistes.*
ASSAILER. *n. f.* [from *assail*.] One who attacks another.
Palladius heated, so purified our *assailers*, that one of them flew him. *Sidney, b. ii.*
ASSAPANICK. *n. f.* A little animal of Virginia, which is said to fly by stretching out its shoulders and its skin, and is called in English the flying squirrel. *Trevoux.*
ASSARABACCA. See ASARABACCA.
ASSART. *n. f.* [*assart*, from *essarter*, Fr. to clear away wood in a forest.] An offence committed in the forest, by plucking up those woods by the roots, that are thickest or coverts of the forest, and by making them as plain as arable land. *Cowel.*
To ASSART. *v. a.* [*assart*, Fr.] To commit an assart. See ASSART.
ASSASSIN. *n. f.* [*assassin*, Fr. a word brought originally from Asia, where, about the time of the holy war, there was a set of men called *assassins*, as is supposed for *Arjicide*, who killed any man, without regard to danger, at the command of their chief.] A murderer; one that kills by treachery, or sudden violence.
In the very moment as the knight withdrew from the duke, this *assassin* gave him, with a back blow, a deep wound in his left side. *Watten.*
The Syrian king, who, to surprize
One man, *assassin* like, had levy'd war,
War unproclaim'd. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. xi.*
Here hir'd *assassins* for their gain invade,
And treach'rous poisons urge their fatal trade. *Dryd. Juv.*
When the hears of a murder, he enlarges more on the guilt of the suffering person, than of the *assassin*. *Addison. Spectator.*
Orestes brandish'd the revenging sword,
Slew the dire pair, and gave to funeral flame
The vile *assassin*, and adulterous dame. *Pope's Odyssey.*
Useful, we grant, it serves what life requires,
But dreadful too, the dark *assassin* hires. *Pope, Epist. iii.*
ASSASSINATE. *n. f.* [from *assassin*.] The crime of an assassin; murder.
Were not all *assassinates* and popular insurrections wrongfully chastised, if the meanness of the offenders indemnified them from punishment? *Pope's Dunciad.*
To ASSASSINATE. *v. a.* [from *assassin*.]
1. To murder by violence.
Help, neighbours, my house is broken open by force, and I am ravished, and like to be *assassinated*. *Dryd. Span. Friar.*
What could provoke thy madness
To *assassinate* so great, so brave a man! *A. Philips, D. Moth.*
2. To way-lay; to take by treachery. This meaning is perhaps peculiar to *Milton*.
Such usage as your honourable lords
Afford me, *assassinated* and betray'd,
Who durst not, with your whole united pow'rs,
In fight withstand one single and unarm'd. *Samph. Agonist.*
ASSASSINATION. *n. f.* [from *assassin*.] The act of assassinating; murder by violence.
If it were done, when 'tis done, then 'twere well
It were done quickly: if th' *assassination*
Could trammel up the consequence, and catch,
With its surcease, success. *Shakep. Macbeth.*
The duke finish'd his course by a wicked *assassination*. *Clarendon.*
ASSASSINATOR. *n. f.* [from *assassin*.] Murderer; mankiller; the person that kills another by violence.
ASSAULT. *n. f.* [*assault*, roasted, Lat.] Roasting.
The egg expiring less in the elixation or boiling; whereas, in the *assault* or roasting, it will sometimes abate a drachm. *Brewin's Vulgar Errors, b. iii.*
ASSAULT. *n. f.* [*assault*, French.]
1. Attack; hostile onset; opposed to defence.
Her spirit had been invincible against all *assaults* of affection. *Shakep. Much ado about Nothing.*
Not to be shook thyself, but all *assaults*
Baffling, like thy hoar cliffs the loud sea wave. *Thomson.*
2. Storm; opposed to *rep* or *seige*.
Jason took at least a thousand men, and suddenly made an *assault* upon the city. *2 Macc. v. 5.*
After some days siege, he resolved to try the fortune of an *assault*: he succeeded therein so far, that he had taken the principal tower and fort. *Bacon's Henry VII.*
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3. Violence.
Themselves at discord fell,
And cruel combat join'd in middle space,
With horrible *assault*, and fury fell. *Fairy Queen, b. ii.*
4. Invasion; hostility; attack.
After some unhappy *assaults* upon the prerogative by the parliament, which produced its dissolution, there followed a compliance. *Clarendon.*
Theories built upon narrow foundations, are very hard to be supported against the *assaults* of opposition. *Locke.*
5. In law. A violent kind of injury offered to a man's person. It may be committed by offering of a blow, or by a fearful speech. *Cowel.*
6. It has upon before the thing assaulted.
To ASSAULT. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To attack; to invade; to fall upon with violence.
The king granted the Jews to gather themselves together, and to stand for their life, to destroy all the power that would *assault* them. *Esdr. viii. 11.*
Before the gates the cries of babes new-born,
Whom fate had from their tender mothers torn,
Assault his ears. *Dryd. Æneid vi.*
Curs'd steel, and more accursed gold,
Gave mischief birth, and made that mischief bold:
And double death did wretched man invade,
By steel *assaulted*, and by gold betray'd. *Dryden's Ovid.*
ASSAULTER. *n. f.* [from *assault*.] One who violently assaults another.
Neither liking their eloquence, nor fearing their might, we esteem'd few frowns in a just defence, able to resist many unjust *assaulters*. *Sidney, b. ii.*
ASSAY. *n. f.* [*assaye*, Fr. from which the ancient writers borrowed *assay*, according to the found, and the latter, *assay*, according to the writing; but the senses now differing, they may be considered as two words.]
1. Examination.
This cannot be
By no *assay* of reason. 'Tis a pageant,
To keep us in false gaze. *Shakep. Othello.*
2. In law. The examination of measures and weights used by the clerk of the market. *Cowel.*
3. The first entrance upon any thing; a taste.
For well he weened, that so glorious bait
Would tempt his guest to take thereof *assay*. *Fairy Queen.*
4. Attack; trouble.
She heard with patience all unto the end,
And strove to master sorrowful *assay*. *Fairy Queen, b. i.*
The men he prest from Tours and Blois but late,
To hard *assays* unfit, unsure at need,
Yet arm'd to point in well attempted plate. *Fairfax, b. i.*
Be sure to find,
What I foretel thee, many a hard *assay*
Of dangers, and adversities, and pains,
Ere thou of Israel's sceptre get fast hold. *Parad. Lost, b. iv.*
To ASSAY. *v. a.* [*assayer*, Fr.]
1. To make trial of; to make experiment of.
Gray and Bryan obtained leave of the general a little to *assay* them; and so with some horsemen charged them home. *Sir J. Hayward.*
What unweighed behaviour hath this drunkard picked out of my conversation, that he dares in this manner *assay* me? *Shakep. Merry Wives of Windsor.*
2. To apply to, as the touchstone in *assaying* metals.
Whom thus afflicted, when sad Eve beheld,
Desolate where she sat, approaching night,
Soft words to his fierce passion the *assay'd*. *Par. Lost, b. x.*
3. To try; to endeavour.
David girded his sword upon his armour, and he *assayed* to go, for he had not proved it. *1 Sam. xvii. 30.*
ASSAYER. *n. f.* [from *assay*.] An officer of the mint, for the due trial of silver, appointed between the master of the mint and the merchants that bring silver thither for exchange. *Cowel.*
The smelters come up to the *assayers* within one in twenty. *Woodward on Fossils.*
ASPECTATION. *n. f.* [*aspectatio*, Lat.] Attendance; or waiting upon. *Diät.*
ASSECUTION. *n. f.* [from *assecur*, *assecurum*, to obtain.] Acquisition; the act of obtaining.
By the canon law, a person, after he has been in full possession of a second benefice, cannot return again to his first; because it is immediately void by his *assecur* of a second. *Asylus's Parergon Juris Canonici.*
ASSEMBLAGE. *n. f.* [*assemblée*, Fr.] A collection; a number of individuals brought together. It differs from *assembly*, by being applied only, or chiefly, to things; *assembly* being used only, or generally, of persons.
All that we amass together in our thoughts is positive, and the *assemblage* of a great number of positive ideas of space or duration. *Locke.*
O Hartford, fitted or to shine in courts
With unaffected grace, or walk the plains,
2 H With